Trade Deficit

461. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAV-RAO JADHAV:

SHRI BHUVNESH CHATUR-VEDL

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased t_0 state the steps Government propose to take during 1991-92 to meet the trade deficit?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): Government has set up an Empowered Committee of Secretaries on Balance of Payments to monitor the performance on export front and to explore possibilities of providing additional exports with a small subsidy element, mainly in he fotrm of CCS. Intensive discussions are taking place with exporters in all the major sectors t_0 explore possibilities of creating additional exports. Special efforts hav_e been made t_0 bolster agricultural exports by removing administrative bottlenecks and ensuring credit availability. Efforts have also been made to identify additional exports to take advantage of increases in domestic production in some areas. Export Promotion Councils have been requested to initiate steps to maintain the $temp_0$ of exports by exploring alternative market to those affected by Gulf crisis. Indian Missions in the Gulf region have been requested to identify items of export for which

demand would have increased as a result of outbreak of war. Given the uncertainties in the world trading environment, we have initiated intensive bilateral discussion to boost exports. A beginning of this process has been made with the visit of a high level delegation led by Commerce Minister to China. Simultaneously, efforts have also been mad_e to curtail the non-essential and low priority imports.

Representations regarding ban on communal parties etc.

462. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has received representations regarding ban on communal parties for submission of false affidavits to get recognition for political parties and about deficiencies in Anti-defection Law; and

(b) if so, what is the number thereof and the action taken therecn?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUS TICE (DR. SUBEAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) and (b) The Election Commission is stated to have received 26 representations during the period from 1st January, 1989 to 26th Feb ruary, 1991 regarding ban on Com munal parties, though the Commission is not empowered to ban any party on any ground. As per the Commis sion none of the representations is based on the ground that false affida vits have been submitted by political partiers for securing recognition. The Commission is also not competent to deal with the deficiencies in the anti-defection laws though it received one representation in that behalf.

Suspension of export items due to Gulf Crisis

463. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISH-RA. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACKAND-RAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the major export $item_s$ which stand suspended following the Gulf crisis;